

2009 TRAC Bridge Competition Checklist 9th & 10th Grade Floating Bridge Competition

Please use this checklist to avoid common mistakes that lead to disqualifications. This list is not all-inclusive and is not a substitute for the official competition rules brochure. Please refer to the official competition rules provided in your bridge kit for a complete explanation of all eligibility requirements and design specifications.

- ☐ The balsa wood used to construct each floating bridge must be only *ONE LAYER* thick. At the joints, the balsa wood bridge may need to be more than one layer thick. These joints may not be any more than 1/8" thick. **Lamination is not permitted.**
- ☐ The materials provided are the **ONLY** materials to be used when building the bridges. The use of additional material is permitted for decorations or visual aids.
- ☐ A car that is 2"w x 1"h must be able to drive across the bridge the bridge.
- ☐ Bridge will be tested for buoyancy.
- ☐ Length of the bridge must be 15".
- ☐ Floating bridge must have guides to hold the bridge alignment **BUT** they must not interfere with the test for buoyancy.
- ☐ The floatation test will be a three (3) pound weight that is placed on the roadway deck.
- ☐ The floating span must be a minimum of 12 inches and a maximum of 15 inches.
- ☐ The floating bridge will be tested for strength using the Pitsco di2000 Bridge Tester.
- ☐ Vertical supports can be no higher than 12 inches. More than 12 inches could result in faulty testing. The vertical supports my not make contact with any part of the testing tank.
- ☐ Here is a link for the Pitsco Structure Tester User's Guide.
http://catalog.pitsco.com/sharedimages/resources/UserGuide/57944_ug.pdf